

What is claimed is:

1. A method of grouping entries in a directory server, said directory server configured to contain roles, the method comprising the step of:

5 assigning an entry to an enumerated role, whereby the entry can be selected by selecting all entries that possess the enumerated role.

2. The method as in claim 1 wherein the enumerated role is possessed by an arbitrary number of entries.

3. The method as in claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
if an entry that possesses the enumerated role is a nested role, then rejecting that entry without further processing of the entry.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:  
providing a set of expressions and boolean operations for use to match entries in a directory search.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the expressions comprise any one or more of operands connected by the operators,

equal = where an instance of the attribute exactly matches the value;

contains \* which is used as a wild card to allow presence check or partial matches;

sounds like ~= which is used in name searches;

greater or equal >= which is used for numerical comparisons;

less or equal <= which is used for numerical comparisons;

negation                   !           which is used to negate any expression;  
 and                               &       which is used to combine two expressions; and  
 or                                 |       which is used to select from two expressions.

- 5   6.    An apparatus comprising:  
       a directory server comprising:  
           a first component configured to assign an entry to a first enumerated role,  
       whereby the entry can be selected by selecting all entries that possess the enumerated  
       role.

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7.    The apparatus as in claim 6 wherein the first component assigns an arbitrary  
       number of entries to said first enumerated role.

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8.    The apparatus as in claim 6, further comprising:  
       a second component coupled to the directory server configured to reject an entry  
       without further processing if the entry that possesses the enumerated role is a nested role.

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9.    The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:  
       a component to provide a set of expressions and boolean operations for use to  
       match entries in a directory search.

10.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the expressions comprise any one or more of  
       operands connected by the operators,

25   equal                               =       where an instance of the attribute exactly  
   matches the value;  
       contains                         \*       which is used as a wild card to allow presence check  
   or partial matches;

	sounds like	~=	which is used in name searches;
	greater or equal	>=	which is used for numerical comparisons;
	less or equal	<=	which is used for numerical comparisons;
	negation	!	which is used to negate any expression;
5	and	&	which is used to combine two expressions; and
	or		which is used to select from two expressions.